METRO / A17

DOH monitoring QC, Manila, Caloocan for rising dengue cases

WORLD / A20

Clinton, Obama debate in South Carolina turns highly personal

NEWS / A6

GMA and entourage of 90 fly on chartered PAL plane to Zurich for Davos forum

That 'No. 1 feeling': PDI to grant wishes of 22 dreamers

LIKE THE SONG SAYS, "A DREAM is a wish your heart makes." [illegible]

Manila Zoo problem: Too many crocodiles



[illegible]

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, January 23, 2008 [illegible] Vol. 23 / No. 45 [illegible]

Stocks plunge worldwide

US economic woes spark frantic selling from Asia to Europe



"IT'S LIKE A FUNERAL IN HERE," [illegible]



TOKYO—FEARS THAT a possible US recession will lead to a worldwide economic slowdown sent stock markets from Tokyo to London plunging a second straight day on Tuesday.

Dizzying declines in Asia and Europe were expected to spread to Wall Street which was closed on Monday for the holiday commemorating civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Adding to the gloom, billionaire investor George Soros said the world was facing its worst financial crisis since World War II and the United States was threatened with recession.

US stock futures [illegible] Tuesday after the Federal Reserve, responding to a growing financial market crisis, slashed interest rates a 0.75 percentage point.

Dow Jones industrial futures, down more than 500 points before the Fed move, [illegible]

"There's a lot of fear in the street and worldwide.... Everyone is so keen to get rid of their stocks now," said [illegible] chief market strategist at Citi Index Markets.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index nose-dived 5.7 percent—its biggest percentage drop in [illegible]

STOCKS A4

GMA moves to cushion impact of weakening US economy on RP

By [illegible] and TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS PUSHing for the implementation of all the projects in the pipeline to cushion the impact of a weakening US economy on the Philippines, [illegible]

[illegible]

Across US: Stories of worried Americans

NEW YORK—[illegible]

Left, Right 'Building Bridges of Peace'

By [illegible]

ON THE STREETS, THEY ARE [illegible]

Farmers met by placard-waving cops

By [illegible] and [illegible]

FARMERS AND ACTIVISTS YESterday marched to commemorate the 1987 "Mendiola Massacre," [illegible]

SC can't quite figure out what ABS-CBN staffers want

By [illegible]

MAGISTRATES OF THE Supreme Court are scratching their heads.

They can't quite figure out what the 11 staff members of ABS-CBN wanted when they went to court on Monday and filed a petition for the issuance of a writ of amparo—a form of [illegible]

Lass with curly hair being tagged Faeldon's angel

By [illegible]

[illegible]

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

EZ2 SIX DIGIT

6 12 2 0 6 6 5 6

SUERTRES

1 6 6 6 6 6

6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN

9 13 15 30 32 35

₱9,435,454.20

JDV III team claims overprice

Joey's experts report P8-B discrepancy

THE NBN-ZTE PROJECT WAS overpriced by almost P8 billion, according to a financial analysis of official documents submitted to the Senate blue ribbon committee which will resume the hearings on the alleged scam next week.

NEWSBRIEFS

RP 'over the hump' on destabilization

Guards who let Trillanes et al. walk probed

Bataan gov faces raps

Longer terms, more taxes

Medical tours next big thing

Hi-tech voting coming to House

SC okays rules of 'habeas data'

THE SUPREME COURT APPROVED yesterday the rules for the writ of habeas data.

CSC chief David chides GMA on appointments

New poverty survey elates GMA

Lass with curly hair being tagged Faeldon's angel





Make it official

'Very obvious why'

Recaptured with a woman

SC can't quite figure out what ABS-CBN staffers want

'Reality could happen'

Another suit

Test to press freedom

Support from abroad

That 'No. 1 feeling': PDI to grant wishes …

Judges

NOTICE OF SALE

WHAT WENT BEFORE

Who went where

Findings

Recommendations

No arms, says Joma

Farmers met by placard-waving cops

GARB

Guessing game

'Finish line'

Can't be bribed

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

Stocks plunge worldwide; sparks frantic selling

Turmoil in India

Contagion spreads

No decoupling

Bush must do more

Wait and see

Across US: Stories of worried Americans

Everyone gets hit

Better spenders than savers

Savings affected

Living on the edge

Too late?

Grim scenario

Gathering storm

Wild card

GMA moves to cushion impact of weakening US economy on RP

'Global engagement'

GMA and party of 90 fly to Zurich on chartered PAL plane

By Tarra Quismundo

Ski resort

Single pitch

Competitiveness index

Tourism, renewable energy

Asean day

'Interactive sessions'

Lakas to field home-grown bet

By Norman Bordadora and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

[illegible]









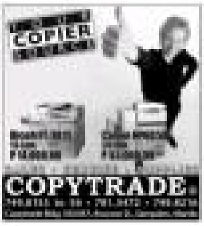
Ermita: All's well in Lakas

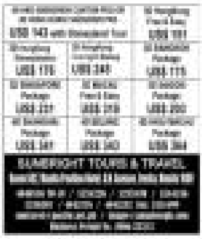
[illegible]

Erratum

On page E4 of the Philippine Business for Social Progress Special Feature on its 37th Annual Membership Meeting and Foundation Day, the name of First Philippine Holdings, Inc. should have been First Philippine Holdings Corporation, and Philippine Investment and Marketing Inc. should have been Philippine Investment Management Inc.















PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Intimidation

EDITORIAL

PRIOR RESTRAINT IS A CONCEPT THAT'S HIGHLY developed in the United States, to which we owe in great part our own constitutional precepts concerning freedom of expression, and of the press—and the limits that can be imposed by government. Simply put, prior restraint is defined by the Oxford American Dictionary as "judicial suppression of material that would be published or broadcast, on the grounds that it is libelous or harmful. In US law, the first amendment severely limits the ability of the government to do this."

When 11 members of the news staff of ABS-CBN petitioned the Supreme Court on Monday to declare the arrest of journalists during the Peninsula caper as illegal, and furthermore, to instruct the authorities to desist from undertaking similar arrests in the future, did they do so simply because they're spoiled and whiny, or because a truly important constitutional issue deserves to be clarified?

The answer depends on whether citizens recognize that the authorities can be wrong, and that people who are arrested can actually be correct in objecting to their being apprehended. The answer also depends on whether the public, which is the ultimate judge of the rightness of the causes of both media and the government, believes that people should go to court, if all other means for resolving differences fail.

[illegible]

There is a simpler word for prior restraint, and it's intimidation. That is something no self-respecting citizen, in or out of uniform, in or out of media, should take sitting down.



Developing Marinduque under a new leadership

As I See It



Neal H. Cruz

[illegible]

Remembrances of things truly past

There's the Rub



Conrado de Quiros

[illegible]

A Bollywood bride for Sarkozy?

World View

Mira Kamdar

A pattern of intimidation

At Large



Rina Jimenez-David

Old solutions to old problems

Looking Back



Ambeth R. Ocampo

Three American presidents of UP

Pinoy Kasi



Michael L. Tan

A 'conscience' dictated by bank accounts

LETTERS



There's need to get back to the basics of firefighting

Intriguing silence of Aquino convicts

Idle lands can be source of biofuels

Going through a 'calvary' at SSS

Bedazzling Benazir

COMMENTARY



Left, Right 'Building Bridges of Peace'

3 provinces

Headway

Reorientation

Taking a risk

Manila Zoo problem: Too many crocodiles

180 animals

Across the NATION

Marines take over war on Sayyaf, JI

MILF sends man to Saudi in bid to win OIC support



MILF guerrillas display their weapons in Camp Darapanan, the guerrillas' main camp in Shariff Kabunsuan.

JOLO, SULU—THE MARINES WERE CALLED IN to finish the job against the Abu Sayyaf and its allies from the terror group Jemaah Islamiyah despite suffering several debacles in the past against Moro gunmen.

Heavy casualties

Good projects

Army recruiting 1,200 more men in Bicol areas

NEWSBRIEFS

Life after contraceptives

Floods sweep villages

S. Leyte tax take up

2 held for bribing mayor

INQUIRER Northern Luzon



BURNHAM Park Lagoon, 1914 (US National Archives).



BURNHAM Park facing north towards La Trinidad, Benguet, 2007.

Baguio then, now and tomorrow

BAGUIO SEEMS TO BECOME [illegible] AS SHE grows older as the "Baguio Then/Now" exhibition shows.

[illegible]

Kapampanganspeak

Ancient alphabet tells why Pampanga people are poor with their 'h'

By Tonette Orejas
Angeles City

FINALLY, THE KAPAMPANGAN have a document that explains the "kulitan," their ancient alphabet. The translation by Fr. Edilberto Santos of Fray Alvaro de Benavente's "Arte de Lengua Pampanga" opens that treasure of knowledge.



[illegible]

Reproduction

[illegible]

Scientific, methodical

[illegible]

More profound

[illegible]

'Mr. Cool' prefers a little twist



"INTROSPECTION," mixed media painting by Rishab.

THERE IS A SPRING TO the walk of Roger Tibon that matches his calm, even-sounding demeanor.

[illegible]

DAYTOY TI AMIANAN

Senate begins hearings on oil VAT

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

OVER MALACAÑANG'S OBJECTION, THE SENATE starts today public hearings on its own proposal to suspend the 12-percent expanded value-added tax (VAT) on oil products to mitigate the impact of the skyrocketing world price of oil.

The Senate ways and means committee chaired by Sen. Francis Escudero will open the hearings five days before Congress resumes its regular session on Jan. 28.

The hearings, to be held jointly with the energy committee chaired by Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, will tackle the separate bills authored by Senators Manuel Roxas II and Juan Miguel Zubiri lifting the VAT on petroleum products by amending the 1997 Tax Reform Act.

Some senators had called for the lifting of the 12-percent VAT on oil products after world crude prices breached the $100 per barrel level earlier this month.

While Zubiri and Escudero said they wanted the 12-percent VAT on oil products permanently scrapped, Roxas proposed a six-month suspension.

Malacañang, however, has decided to keep the tax on oil products, warning that cutting it would lead to a runaway budget deficit. The Palace instead reduced by 1 percent the 3-percent tariff on oil imports.

Roxas insisted the government could afford the expected P30-billion loss from a six-month VAT suspension since the government was in better fiscal shape now than in 2005, when the VAT law was enacted to stem a P200-billion budget deficit.

"We're no longer in fiscal crisis, under that the government continues to collect taxes from socially sensitive products, such as oil, to cover up shabby collections in other areas. It rejects our proposal because it's easier to collect VAT from oil products than to go after big tax evaders and smugglers," Roxas said.

Escudero admitted the Senate hearings would amount to nothing unless the House of Representatives acted on the proposal to lift the VAT since all tax measures emanate from the House.

The ways and means committee has invited as resource persons Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran, Oil Industry Management Bureau Director Zenaida Monsada, Cyril del Callar of the National Power Corp., Bureau of Internal Revenue Assistant Commissioner James Roldan, and representatives of Shell, Chevron and Petron.

Aplus METRO

3 Metro cities monitored for dengue

ADB launches technical aid program to prevent outbreak

THREE AREAS IN METRO MANILA—QUEZON City, Manila and Caloocan City—are closely being monitored by the Department of Health because of an increase in the number of dengue cases.

Robbers hurt 2 guards in foiled QC bank robbery

Plan

Money safe

DID YOU KNOW

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

WESTERN MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Bomb scare at POEA offices in Mandaluyong



Writ of amparo sought vs Peewee

Case dismissed

Court reversal won't have effect on trash collection

3 Metro cities monitored for dengue

INVITATION TO BID

INVITATION TO SUBMIT BID PROPOSAL

MetroBriefs

Former OFW files complaint against TV host

PBA joins Inquirer Read-Along



Mt. Everest conqueror makes last journey

Israel eases Gaza blockade

Thai junta disbands, vows no more coups



THAKSIN



WORLDBRIEFS

No improvements in Suharto's health

Indonesia confirms 120th bird flu victim

Militants kill five Pakistani troops

China couple to sue subway over leaked video

Mexico arrests senior drug cartel member

Bin Laden's son disagrees with father

World powers meet on new Iran sanctions

The World

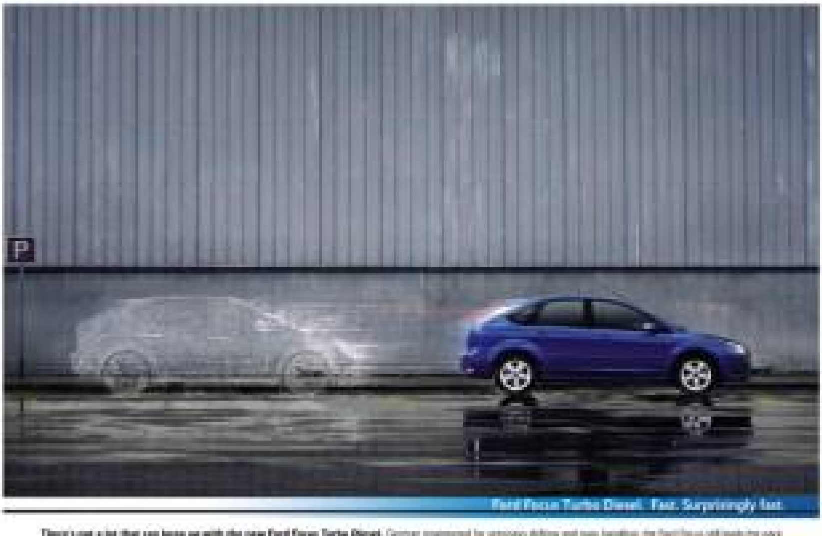
Editor: Leonila B. Garcia



Clinton, Obama debate turns highly personal

MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA—BAD blood and pent-up anger boiled over as Democratic foes Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama seethed and accused one another of truth-twisting in a rancorous 2008 campaign debate.

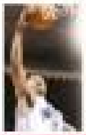
AFP



Suicide bomber kills 17 in Iraq

AFP

SPORTS



WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Lewis lifts Orlando with endgame magic /A23

■ Jankovic ousts defending champ; Nadal gains /A24



PBA quarterfinals get going today



Alaska battles Coke; Red Bull faces Magnolia

PBA team owner ready to help Olympic-bound RP swimmers

Villanueva need not sell his medal

Pinoys net 2 golds but stay in fifth



PBA commish position left with no takers

IBF titlist picks Pacquiao over Marquez



How many people are there like George Stribling?

Bare Eye



Recah Trinidad

Sportswatch

Domingo seeks WBO belt

Makati 3-cocker gets going

2 triathlon events set in Camiguin

Six under will win at TCC—Que



QUE: Title defender

Lewis lifts Orlando with endgame magic





WADE: Losing effort

Asistio 5 shots off in KL Open

SJC Int'l Derby round 2 today; underdogs up

SPORTS

Serena gets the boot

Sharapova rips top seed Henin; Nadal advances

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA—"WAKE UP Serena!" a fan shouted out, clear enough to cut through any fog.



JANKOVIC: Revenge feels good



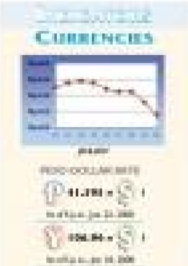
NADAL: Good enough

BUSINESS

7-day slide wipes out ₱528B in stock value

Bloodbath puts RP bourse in bear market territory

THE LOCAL EQUITIES MARKET YESTERDAY OFFICIALLY entered a "bear market" phase after the stock exchange index fell through the floor amid fears of a US recession-induced global economic slowdown.



IN THIS ISSUE

Teves: RP can weather effects of US recession


TEVES

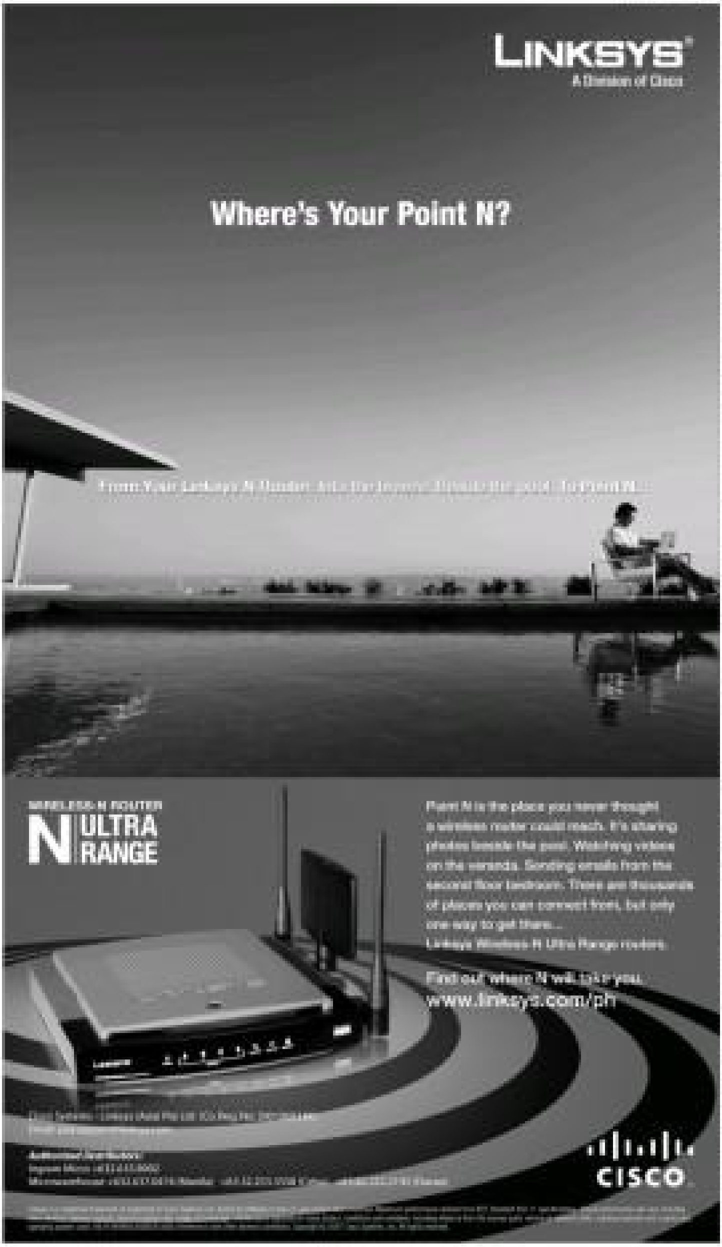
Neda bucks proposal to lift 12% VAT on oil



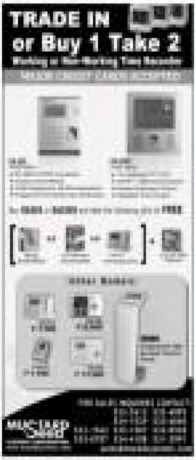
By Michelle V. Remo



7-day slide ...



Headstrong expands Manila unit to meet demand







Meralco shares change hands

Analysts see gov't consolidating block of shares

A HUGE BLOCK OF SHARES WORTH P5.84 billion in power distributor Manila Electric Co. was sold last Monday in a deal that, according to stock analysts, involved government entities.

Data from the Philippine Stock Exchange showed that the shares were sold in two deals, each consisting of 42.297 million shares at P69.71 apiece, or a total of 84.59 million shares.

The shares sold represented around 8 percent of the company's outstanding capital stock.

Meralco on Monday closed at P71.00, up 50 centavos from its previous price.

Yesterday it ended at P70 apiece, down P1.50.

Sources familiar with the Lopez family's activities said the Lopezes were not involved—so did not buy nor sell Meralco shares—during Monday's block sale.

Stock market sources said the deal likely involved government as the buying and selling parties.

There was talk in the market that government pension funds were involved in the deal. The national government earlier announced that it is pushing through with the sale of its shares in Meralco this year.

Government Service Insurance System general manager Winston Garcia yesterday declined to answer questions on whether GSIS bought the block of Meralco shares.

But he did say that the government pension fund "did not sell any Meralco shares."

"Whoever the buyer is will soon disclose [the deal] to the Securities and Exchange Commission," Garcia merely said.

Social Security System president Corazon dela Paz also said that the deal did not involve "SSS shares."

Brokers speculated that the government might have consolidated its stake in Meralco to command a more attractive price when it sells its stake as one block.

Brokers also claimed that those left out in the privatization of the state's major power assets may still be interested in bidding more for the government's stake.

The government and three state-owned financial institutions last March agreed to jointly sell up to 33 percent of Meralco.

The national government owns 14 percent of Meralco, while the pension funds Social Security System and Government Service Insurance System, as well as the Land Bank of the Philippines, together account for 20 percent of the power utility.

Based on Meralco's estimated market capitalization, the national government could get about P1 billion from the sale, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves had said.

Currencies

[illegible]



[illegible]

'07 deficit expected to range below P9B

By Doris C. Dumlao

Pre-need firms see modest sales growth in 2007

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

Banker sees peso hitting 38-39 to $1 this year

Remittance factor to counter pressures on peso

By Doris C. Dumlao

Civil engineering exams

Questions of Policies

Honesto C. General

Teves: RP ...

From page B1

Headstrong ...

From page B1

BUSINESS

Tax on Pall Mall stays

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE is standing by its decision to slap an excise tax of P28.06 a pack on Pall Mall cigarettes.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said yesterday that the BIR had reviewed its decision and was convinced that Pall Mall should be taxed P28.06 a pack and not P6.74 as sought by the manufacturer.

"The BIR did not change its stand. It still believes the highest tax rate is applicable," Teves said in a phone interview.

The Department of Finance directed the BIR to review its decision following complaints by Pall Mall manufacturer British American Tobacco that it should not be slapped the highest tax.

The BIR said in its review that Pall Mall was indeed covered by the high excise tax rate because the brand itself is imported.

The BIR said that under the Sin Tax law, imported cigarettes should be charged the highest sin tax rate.

The BIR also said that the Sin Tax law does not allow a downward reclassification of cigarettes.

Imposing a lower excise tax rate on Pall Mall after the BIR had already charged it with the highest rate is therefore prohibited, the BIR said.

BAT, meanwhile, said slapping Pall Mall with a higher tax rate was tantamount to "undue market protection" given that other cigarette brands with the same price as Pall Mall's are charged only P6.74 a pack.

DA scouts for new palay areas

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE is looking for new areas to be planted to palay this year to further raise production.

The DA is thus continuing its quick turnaround (QTA) program, which was implemented last year to cushion the impact of the prolonged dry spell on traditional rice producing areas in central Luzon.

Over 300,000 hectares of land were planted to palay in Visayas and Mindanao and production in these areas offset the drop in output in Luzon.

These new farm production sites managed to increase their palay harvests last year by 20 percent or 350,000 metric tons and cuts, by 200,000 MT, defying earlier forecasts that climate change would pull down crop yields.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said the other day that continuing the QTA program would help the agriculture sector raise palay output this year by 5.79 percent to a record 17.3 million MT.

If achieved, this volume will bring the country's self sufficiency in palay to about 92 percent.

"We are now looking at off-season production sites for the QTA planting program," Yap said.

Yap also said that the DA would continue this year with its strategy of opening more irrigated lands and using seed technologies to further increase palay production.

Last year, palay production increased by 5.96 percent to 16.24 million MT due to the use of hybrid and high-quality inbred seeds through the DA's Ginintuang Masaganang Ani program.





MOTORING

John Cesar D. Mangaoang





WHO would've guessed that this innocent-looking wagon could zoom past most cars and seat 7 while at it?

The pros and cons of Kia Carens CRDi

Enjoy seat-of-your pants performance without the 'fuel guilt'

By Tessa R. Salazar

IF YOU'RE AFFECTED BY rising fuel prices [illegible] and are opting for 7-seater diesel-powered cars, consider test-driving Kia Carens.

[illegible]

Pros

[illegible]

PS: Carens CRDi automatic version

[illegible]



Rethinking biofuels

On the Road



Challenged

Massive

Water

Environmental

Compatible

The pros and cons of Kia Carens CRDi





Cons

Student . . .

1,400

My drift



Andre Dalisay

Interesting to see

Transport Trivia

By Emman Cena

What are biofuels?



Second-generation biofuels

First-generation

MOTORING

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Student finds another biodiesel source

Hopes to put industry back on track

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

THE COUNTRY'S BUDDING biodiesel industry recently hit a rough patch when visiting 1998 Nobel laureate for chemistry Dr. Martinus

Michel said the country's move to push biofuel development would be counterproductive.

Michel explained that such move would only produce little energy compared if the Philippines develop its other renewable sources of energy like the wind.



ANTONIO (right) completes this year's top three BPI-DOST Science Awards recipients, namely, first placer Concepcion (center) and first runner-up Lacson.

In reaction, one lawmaker reportedly called for a slowdown in the massive cultivation of crops for biofuel production, fearing that the hectarage devoted to food production would be reduced.

Even local crop science experts feared that biofuel production will inevitably use additional lands over and above the existing agricultural lands that are devoted to food crop production.

Back on track

Last week, a chemical engineering student from the University of Santo Tomas presented a study that may help the country's biofuel industry back on track and perhaps, back to the loving arms of the country's leaders and legislators.

Jose Paolo Antonio said the country should consider the seeds of Bitaog tree, a wild and seashore source plant found throughout the Philippines, particularly along the seashores.

"We were able to extract its oil and found that it could also be used as an excellent alternative source of diesel fuel, even better than jatropha seeds, which is now being extensively cultivated nationwide," he explained.

Cultivated anywhere

The 22-year-old student said the tree could be cultivated anywhere so it should not compete with food source plants.

"You don't have to cut areas of farm vegetation to clear lands for cultivating Bitaog," he added.

Although he declined to give more details of his study pending patent applications, Antonio said that based on their initial tests, oil from the Bitaog seeds exhibits properties that are the same or even better than that of jatropha.

"We need more funding to extensively test our oil (like) how it will affect engine performance, its smoke emissions, what other pro-

STUDENT B2-4

Toyota offers 6th Triple Crown raffle promo

TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES CORP. (TMP) ushers into the New Year by celebrating its 6th consecutive term of achieving the Triple Crown title. The Year 2007 was another success for the automotive company as it snagged the No. 1 position for the Passenger Car segment, Commercial Vehicle segment and overall sales.

As a way of thanking its customers, TMP celebrates its 6th Triple Crown with a raffle promo from Jan. 22 to Feb. 29. All of Toyota's January and February customers get a chance to win any of Toyota's best-selling vehicles.

The six vehicles that will be raffled off are not only No. 1 in their respective categories but also top the charts for overall vehicle sales. The Hilux is the country's best-selling pickup for the year, the Fortuner is the best-selling SUV, the Camry is the best-selling medium size luxury car, the Vios is the second best-selling passenger car and the second best-selling car in the country, the Avanza and the Innova are the country's best-selling vehicles.

January customers are entitled to two raffle coupons while February customers get one raffle coupon.

The deal gets sweeter for those who purchase the Vios, Innova and Avanza with the Toyota Savings Plus (TSP) packages and rates entered. The Vios customers can get as much as P50,000 TSP and the Innova and Avanza customers get as much as P30,000 TSP. The Toyota Savings Plus can be used for accessories, chattel mortgage, LTO registration, discounts or Toyota Financial Services financing (TFS) packages. TFS also offers 0 percent interest on great financing packages for selected models.

In addition, TMP would like to congratulate the 10 winners of the December Great Upgrade 2 promo: Catherine Garcia, Noel Dinsen, Maria Bonne, Mary Lane Santos, Rommel Fabella, Bill Ombra Evardone, Irene Bumanglag, Melinda Camara and Oscar Fuerte.

LIFESTYLE



NOVICE surfers warm up for their first lesson.

Surfing off the beaten path

Lanuza in Surigao del Sur has good waves, good food and good company

SURFING IN LANUZA, Surigao del Sur is not for the faint of heart. First, to get there, you have to take a rocky four-hour land trip from the airport. Then the waves are not really suited for beginners, as there's a strong undercurrent. But for the adventure-seeker looking for something way off the beaten path, Lanuza would be paradise.

[illegible]

B&B

[illegible]





SWEET adventure outside chocolate paradise

Chocolate paradise



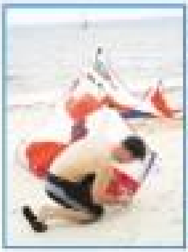
Password

Quick chocolatey facts

Chocolate chip cookies



WHERE'S Willy Wonka? The author and a friend at the chocolate factory







Da, the Russians

Fun activities



EVENT organizer Michael Ternovoy



Surfing off the beaten path

Plunging into it

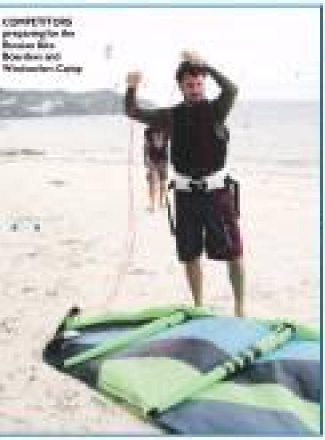
Strong waves



TEACHER Paolo Soler demonstrates the proper stance



MEMBERS of the Aloha Boardsports Team Rider gear up for a day of perfect waves


COMPETITORS preparing for the Russian Kite Boarders and Windsurfers Camp




PHOTOGRAPHER Andrey Rikova is part of the Russian event organizing team


A FILIPINA model (Ati-Atihan)



and Lifestyle has arranged, such as a sunset yacht cruise onboard the ... [illegible]

Recently, the Russian participants also went to Kalibo, Aklan to witness the Ati-Atihan festival. They scheduled to fly back home at the end of the month.

With the country's ... and ... perfect for all sorts of water activities—and with the Philippines remaining a place of incomparable hospitality, natural resources and unique tourist spots—there is no doubt that the participants of the Russian Kite Boarders and Windsurfers Camp will have a lot of great things to say about the Philippines when they return to Russia.

E-mail the author at [illegible]

LEA SALONGA
A STORY OF EXCELLENCE



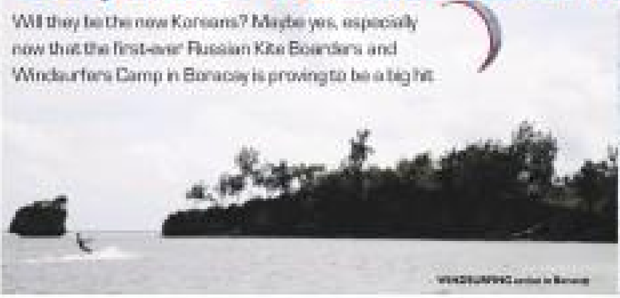






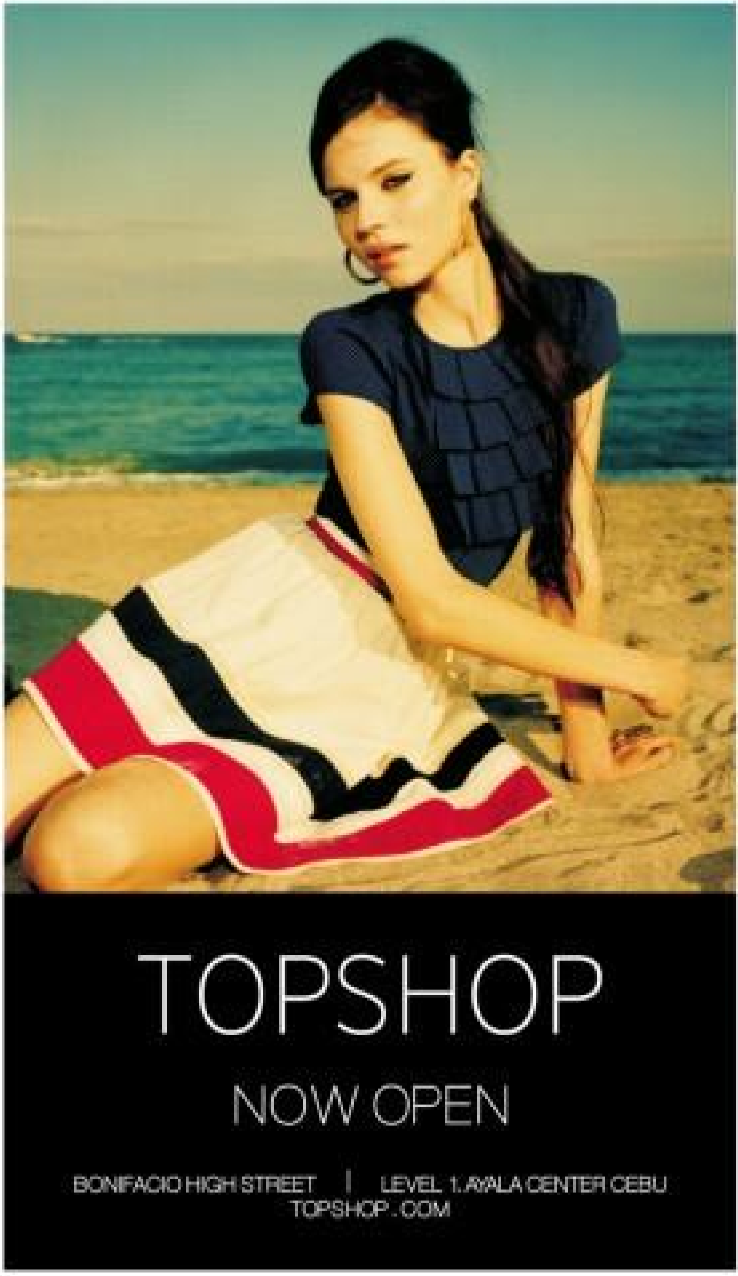
Da, the Russians are coming!

Will they be the new Koreans? Maybe yes, especially now that the first-ever Russian Kite Boarders and Windsurfers Camp in Boracay is proving to be a big hit.



WINDSURFING action in Boracay







Kiss and tell and win a diamond necklace

LifeStyle



LOOK, an elephant! Enterprising locals bring an elephant to the beach.

Braving Bangkok with friends

For 11 days we had the time of our lives in Thailand as delegates to the World's Universities Debating Championship



RECLINING Buddha at Wat Po

By Miya David
2BU Contributor

FILIPINO FAMILIES usually take advantage of travel packages and bring the whole family along on the trip. But when I got the chance to go to another country without my family, I grabbed at it.

For 11 days, my friends and I were in Thailand for the World's Universities Debating Championship. It was the first time (most) of us spent the New Year away from home, and for some, their first time to travel abroad without their dads to help carry their bags or moms to make sure tickets didn't get lost.

After the New Year's celebration (which was tamer than what we have in the Philippines—less fireworks), my friends and I decided to wander around Bangkok. But first, we took in a lot of culture.

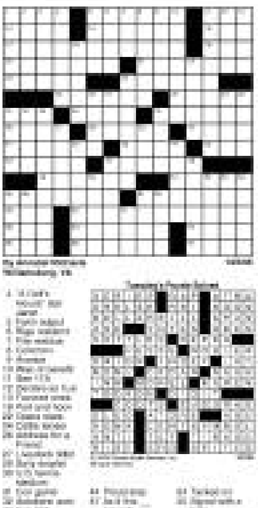
Unlike the Philippines, Thailand is a Buddhist country. We went to the Wat Po temple where the Reclining Buddha is. To get there we had to take the LRT and then a river boat. (A tip: If you're only visiting one temple, opt for the cheaper river boat fare. If you're temple-hopping, however, splurge on the 120 baht Tourist River Boat.)

The giant Reclining Buddha is made of gold and spans the whole length of the temple proper. The soles of its feet are made of mother-of-pearl and has the wheels of a toe print. It's the most detailed statue I

BRAVING D2



DAILY CROSSWORD



HOROSCOPE

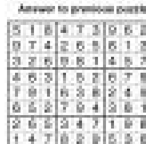
CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

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9		8				3		1
2	1						4	7
	6						8	
		5				2		
		1	7		8	5		
			9	1	5			

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Answer to previous puzzle



Braving Bangkok with friends



GOODS at low prices at Suan Lum Night Bazaar



GONG at Wat Po temple



SHOPPING at MBK



STYLISH restrooms at Siam Center

Mall people

Local delicacies



GET THE BODY YOU WANT

3 WOMEN. 3 AMAZING WEIGHT-LOSS STORIES.

All by Marie France. *Aiko Melendez, Rica Peralejo and Carlene Aguilar all have something in common. They've all experienced the non-surgical, non-invasive, easy and effective way to lose the inches and pounds: Marie France. Read on and find out the reasons behind these women's dangerously sexy curves.*

AIKO MELENDEZ
Problem: **Stubborn fat**
Marie France solution: **Ultrashape**
Weight Before Marie France: **181 lbs.**
Weight After Marie France: **148 lbs.**

Aiko has already successfully lost a lot of post-pregnancy weight from Marie France treatments like Fat Mobilization System and Endermologie. But there still remained those areas of fat that didn't seem to budge.

"I did lipo before," Aiko admits. "But the scary thing about lipo is it's a "blind procedure." You don't know exactly if it's hitting the fat that you want to lose. And with lipo, when I gained back the weight, it became double, even triple of what I originally weighed. Not only that, *lumilipat yung taba* to different parts of the body so it wasn't proportioned."

Aiko found out the better alternative to liposuction: Ultrashape. This non-surgical, non-invasive procedure targets specific areas of fat in the body and eliminates them through natural body processes.

"I admit at first I thought it was too good to be true," Aiko says. "Because I had to go through so many needles and surgery before. And here comes Ultrashape, with no pain at all. But when I tried it on my back, flanks, thighs and tummy, I was amazed with the results! It was so easy!"

Now with a healthier weight of 148 lbs., she enjoys her new figure and new outlook. "When you lose weight, you're more relaxed. *Kasi hindi mabigat ang pakiramdam*. So I can be more active for my kids. And I can now wear my favorite black halter dress knowing I look great! Thanks to Marie France for bringing back my confidence!"



BEFORE 181 lbs.







BEFORE 36-28-38

RICA PERALEJO
Problem: **Large hips**
Marie France solutions: **Vaca Pulse, Vela Smooth, Endermologie**
Measurements Before Marie France: **36-28-38**
Measurements After Marie France: **36-26-36**

Rica, who used to have a very petite frame, started noticing a change in her weight at the age of 25. "After 25, everything was harder," Rica narrates. "Harder to lose the weight, harder for me to exercise. Sometimes I'd go running and would easily get tired. I noticed the weight gain also increased after I went to Europe, because of all the delicious food I ate there! Actually it wasn't so much the weight that was the problem, but the inches. My pants size went up to 28, 29... and my butt became huge, which I honestly didn't mind, but it was hard to look for jeans that fit me," Rica says. "Honestly my upper body is fine. I'm satisfied with it. But I have a small face, so when I do try to lose weight, *syempre damay yung face ko. Sa tingin ko na parang*. And I don't want to look haggard. It was just my hips that stocked all the fat!"

The weight gain also began to take a toll on her self image. "It affected my self-esteem!" she recalls. "I was too proud to admit it before. I even told myself, 'I don't need to look sexy for anybody.' But deep down inside, there was this feeling that I wanted to look good and be healthy. And the truth is, excess weight will prevent you from doing certain things and wearing certain clothes. In my case, it was really hard to find pants that fit or a dress that would flatter my figure."

She also admits her aversion to anything surgical or invasive. "I'm super afraid of operations and injections. So that's one of the reasons why I like Marie France. *Kasi non-invasive siya*."

Among the treatments that have helped perfect her figure are Vaca Pulse, Vela Smooth and Endermologie. These treatments are ideal for targeting fat deposits in the hip and thigh areas, and breaking down stubborn fat that can cause cellulite. After only a few months of her treatment program, she transformed from her "okay" 36-28-38 vital stats to a fabulous 36-26-36 hourglass figure!

CARLENE AGUILAR
Problem: **Post-pregnancy weight gain**
Marie France solutions: **FMS, Endermologie, Ultrashape**
Measurement Before Marie France:
31.5-inch waistline
Measurement After Marie France:
27-inch waistline

This former beauty queen went from a winning form to a drastic gain in weight when she became pregnant with her first child. "I didn't expect to gain the weight," Carlene recalls. "I thought *pag tinaging healthy yung baby, dapat kumain ng marami* so I kept eating. I became really conscious when the weight gain happened. Imagine, *naging model pa ako dati*. Then suddenly I couldn't find anything nice to wear."

Reaching her ideal weight became very important. "*Syempre nakikita yung disiplina sa katawan. Ayaw maalagaan mo yung body mo*. I really wanted to lose the weight. Though I'm not against liposuction, *parang natatakot ako na do it*."

That's what made the Marie France treatments appeal to her. "As of now, I've only been doing Marie France treatments for more than a month, *pero ang laki na ng na-lose ko!* Favorite treatment *ko yung* Endermologie. It feels like you're getting a massage."

Carlene also benefited from Marie France's Fat Mobilization System, which targets overall body fat, and Ultrashape – the non-surgical alternative to liposuction. Now, she flaunts her slimmer figure and a 27-inch waistline! "I love my tummy now because of Ultrashape! I've been getting a lot of compliments from people, too. 'O, payat ka na pala a!' they tell me. I'm not only flattered, I feel more confident too. *Mas confident, kaya ma-porma ko na ulit, kasi nasusuot ko na yung clothes na hindi ko masuot before*. Thanks to Marie France, I got my body back!"

For a FREE consultation, call Marie France today at 896-BODY (2639); Cebu (032) 231-7817/2[illegible]; Pampanga (045) 961-2902/961-2991.



BEFORE 31.5" waist



ENTERTAINMENT

Editor: Emmie G. Velarde



Gary V may star in S'pore production

THIS JUST IN: GARY VALENCIANO MAY leave "anytime soon" for Singapore to start rehearsals for a local theater company's production of the Broadway hit, "Guys and Dolls."

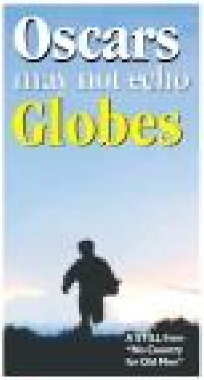
This was according to a reliable source, who also said the award-winning singer-composer may take the lead role. The source did not give details about the production, but said the play would run for six months.

Valenciano, who visited the Inquirer recently for a chat with the Entertainment staff, did say that something "big and exciting" was afoot.

He was enumerating the events in the celebration this year of his 25th anniversary in show biz, including a tribute album and a concert tour.

"I wish I could tell you about this other big thing," he said. "But you will know soon." Well, this sounds like it.

Oscars may not echo Globes



A STILL from "No Country for Old Men"

LOS ANGELES—THE RACE for the Oscars was set to enter home straight last night as nominees for the 80th Academy Awards were unveiled amid uncertainty about how Hollywood's writers strike will affect this year's showpiece red carpet event.

The Academy's famous gold statuettes will be handed out Feb. 24.

The early front-runner for the Best Picture prize is Joel and Ethan Coen's "No Country for Old Men," a bleak crime thriller about the mayhem unleashed when a drug deal on the US-Mexico border goes wrong.

"No Country," which had won a string of critics' prizes, was overlooked at the Golden Globes on Jan. 13, with the Hollywood Foreign Press Association instead choosing to honor period drama "Atonement." Tom O'Neil, of Los Angeles Times awards blog theenvelope.com, said "No Country," the powerful drama "There Will Be Blood" and low-budget comedy "Juno" were likely to be among the five Best Picture nominees.

Hard call

The other slots were harder to call, with "Atonement," "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly," "American Gangster," "Into the Wild," "Michael Clayton," and "Sweeney Todd" all possible nominees.

While "Atonement," a sweeping adaptation of Ian McEwan's novel about love and betrayal set during World War II, would have been a classic Oscars contender in years gone by, O'Neil believes Academy voters' tastes may have changed.

"Atonement has the big epic feel of an Oscar movie and Oscar voters love this kind of movie, just as they loved 'The English Patient' and 'Out of Africa' in the past," O'Neil said. "But we've seen a sea change in recent years with films like 'The Departed' winning."

That could strengthen "No Country for Old Men's" chances, O'Neil said, warning there was a slim chance that the Golden Globes' two Best Picture winners "Atonement" and musical "Sweeney Todd" may both fail to get nominated.

"If that happens, it will be the first time ever that one of the two Best Picture winners at the Globes did not translate into an Oscar," O'Neil said. "That would be shocking."

In the acting awards, clear front-runners have emerged in most categories, with

OSCARS B3



DANIEL Day-Lewis and Paul Dano in Paul Thomas Anderson's "There Will Be Blood"



Ricky Lee film fest set

[illegible]



JENNIFER Garner, Jason Bateman and Ellen Page in "Juno"



KEIRA Knightley and Saoirse Ronan in "Atonement."

Oscars may not echo Globes

From page E1

[illegible]

Actors

[illegible]

AFP

BAKIT MAGTIYA-TIYAGA SA WIRELESS LANDLINE PHONE NA
MAHINA ANG SIGNAL?



SUBOK NA BA ANG SERBISYO?
MALINAW BA ANG SIGNAL SA LOOB AT LABAS NG BAHAY?
AT SIYEMPRE MAGKANO?

MAGTANONG MUNA!

PLDT

PLDT landline plus

Two's company; and three's a family

'Orosman at Zafira'

AT THE CINEMAS

Cinema				
GLORIETTA 1	1 AMERICAN GANGSTER	2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 2	3 THE HEARTBREAK KID	4 NATIONAL TREASURE BOOK OF SECRETS
GLORIETTA 4	1 NATIONAL TREASURE BOOK OF SECRETS	2 P.S. I LOVE YOU	3 SWEENEY TODD	
GLORIETTA 4	4 I AM LEGEND	5 ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS	6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 2	7 SWEENEY TODD
GREENBELT 1	1 AMERICAN GANGSTER	2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 2		
GREENBELT 3	1 AMERICAN GANGSTER	2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 2		
GREENBELT 3	3 P.S. I LOVE YOU	4 THE HEARTBREAK KID	5 NATIONAL TREASURE BOOK OF SECRETS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 2	2 AMERICAN GANGSTER		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	3 P.S. I LOVE YOU	4 ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS	5 NATIONAL TREASURE BOOK OF SECRETS	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 2	2 AMERICAN GANGSTER	3 I COULD NEVER BE YOUR WOMAN	4 NATIONAL TREASURE BOOK OF SECRETS
MARKET! MARKET!	1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 2	2 AMERICAN GANGSTER		
MARKET! MARKET!	3 P.S. I LOVE YOU	4 NATIONAL TREASURE BOOK OF SECRETS	5 ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS	
TRINOMA	1 NATIONAL TREASURE BOOK OF SECRETS	2 SWEENEY TODD	3 AMERICAN GANGSTER	4 P.S. I LOVE YOU
TRINOMA	5 ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS	6 I AM LEGEND	7 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 2	

AT THE MALLS

Mall	Event
Glorietta	January 18 to February 8
Greenbelt	WELCOME 2008 SALE January 11 to February 3
Alabang Town Center	Alvin & The Chipmunks Live at Alabang Town Center
Ayala Center Cebu	WELCOME 2008 SALE January 11 to February 3
Market! Market!	WELCOME 2008 SALE January 11 to February 3
Cinemalaya	
Ayala Museum	
TriNoma	WELCOME 2008 SALE January 11 to February 3


PLDT LANDLINE PLUS 'YAN!
MALAKAS ANG SIGNAL KAYA MAS MARAMING NATATAWAGAN
SA MAS MARAMING BAYAN.
MAG-PLDT LANDLINE PLUS NA!
ANG WIRELESS LANDLINE PHONE NA PORTABLE AT TEXT-CAPABLE.
MAS MALAWAK ANG SIGNAL
KAYA SIGURADONG MALINAW ANG TAWAG MO SA LOOB O LABAS MAN NG BAHAY.
ANG DALI PANG MAGKA-LANDLINE PLUS.
PUNTA LANG SA PLDT BUSINESS OFFICE
OR CONNECT PATROL BOOTH NEAREST YOU!
CONNECT PATROL
P600
per month
PLDT
Iba Pa Rin Ang May PLDT Landline
PLDT
landline PLUS

Two's company; and three's a family

VIEWFINDER
Nestor U. Torre

What's the fuss?

Opening This Week


"AMERICAN Gangster"

Condo


"P.S. I LOVE"

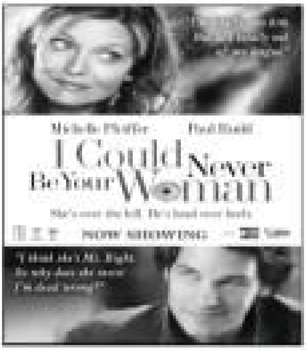
American Gangster

Aliens vs Predator 2

P.S. I Love You

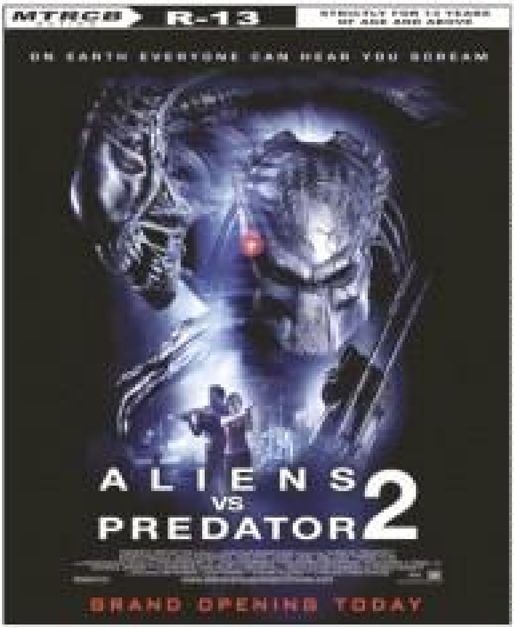

"JOHN Rambo"

John Rambo











ENTERTAINMENT

Indie filmmakers urge MTRCB: Change rules



Celebrities' special songs

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

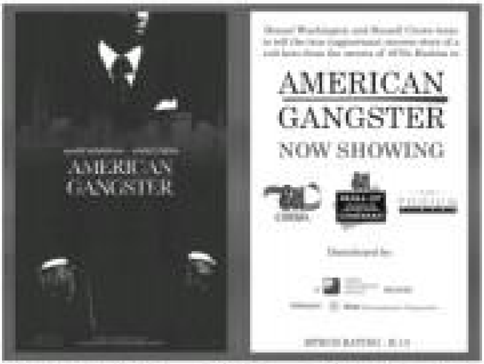


SM Cinema

movietime SHOWTIME

Your life as a movie





ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA

1 NATIONAL TREASURE 2 - THE
2 AMERICAN GANGSTER
3 P.S. I LOVE YOU
4 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
5 ALIEN vs. PREDATOR 2
6 I AM LEGEND
7 DRAGON WAR
8 indieSine: CONDO
9 SWEENEY TODD
10 THE HEARTBREAK KID



a film by Ryanddie Portabes

MTRCB Rating: R18

NOW SHOWING at indieSine ERMITA January 23 to 29

ERMITA

1 ALIEN vs. PREDATOR 2
2 indieSine: SIKIL
3 THE HEARTBREAK KID
4 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
5 DRAGON WAR
6 AMERICAN GANGSTER
7 SWEENEY TODD
1 I AM LEGEND
2 P.S. I LOVE YOU
2 NATIONAL TREASURE 2

METRO EAST

1 AMERICAN GANGSTER
2 DRAGON WAR
3 ALIEN vs. PREDATOR 2
4 P.S. I LOVE YOU
5 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
6 SWEENEY TODD
7 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
8 I AM LEGEND

NOVALICHES

1 I AM LEGEND
2 ALIEN vs. PREDATOR
3 AMERICAN GANGSTER
4 THE HEARTBREAK KID
5 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
6 SWEENEY TODD
7 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
8 DRAGON WAR

PIONEER

1 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
2 ALIEN vs. PREDATOR 2
3 P.S. I LOVE YOU
4 AMERICAN GANGSTER

STA. ROSA

1 ALIEN vs. PREDATOR 2
2 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
3 DESPERADAS
4 I AM LEGEND
5 THE HEARTBREAK KID

LIPA

1 BEE MOVIE
2 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
3 ELIZABETH
4 HOOD OF HORROR

DASMARIÑAS

1 ALIEN vs. PREDATOR 2
2 I AM LEGEND
3 DESPERADAS
4 NATIONAL TREASURE 2

IMUS

1 ALIEN vs. PREDATOR
2 SWEENEY TODD
3 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
4 I AM LEGEND

ANGELES

1 ALIEN vs. PREDATOR 2
2 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
3 THE HEARTBREAK KID
4 DESPERADAS

TARLAC

1 I AM LEGEND
2 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
3 BANAL

STARMILLS

1 ALIEN vs. PREDATOR 2
2 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
3 I AM LEGEND
4 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
5 DESPERADAS
6 THE HEARTBREAK KID

BACOLOD

1 ALIEN vs. PREDATOR 2
2 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
3 BEE MOVIE / I AM LEGEND
4 DEATH PROOF
5 THE HEARTBREAK KID
6 CATACOMBS

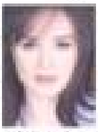
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1 ALIEN vs. PREDATOR 2
2 DEATH PROOF
3 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
4 I AM LEGEND
5 THE HEARTBREAK KID
6 HOOD of HORROR



Celebrities' special songs

From page F1



LUCY Torres-Gomez

Indie...

From page F1

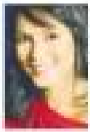
Disappointed

Appeal for representation

Annabelle Rama fancies KC for Richard

By the Inquirer Entertainment Staff

KC, movie star



JEWEL Mische

Gabby's turn

Inspired madness

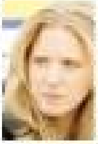
A step in time

All hers

Showbiz history



KC Concepcion



AMY Redford

Top of the talk shows

Intimate

'Okay lang' department

Messages galore

Writers' strike puts Grammys at risk, too

No matter what

Another view

AP

'Selda' somber and substantial

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit



EMILIO Garcia and Sid Lucero

Violent

Unified

Commendable

New from Sandwich, Nikki Gil





SANDWICH

Four more